



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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District of Arizona*

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## **AUTHORITIES SEIZE DRUGS**

YUMA— A number of marijuana loads have been seized in Yuma County between September 12, 2005 and September 19, 2005, with the size of seizures ranging from 52 pounds to over 1,000 pounds.

Agents of the United States Border Patrol who were conducting air operations in the Yuma Desert sighted an abandoned backpack on the ground. The backpack was found to contain approximately 52 pounds of marijuana.

Federal agents found an abandoned vehicle containing approximately 1070 pounds of marijuana in Yuma County, Arizona.

A 404-pound seizure in the Yuma Desert led to the arrest of Jose Luis Portillo-Lopez by agents of the United States Border Patrol. The agents discovered Portillo was driving through the desert in a vehicle loaded with marijuana. Portillo was charged with possessing with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana, an offense which carries a maximum penalty of 40 years, a \$2 million fine, or both.

The seized marijuana in the aforementioned cases was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for analysis and further investigation.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigations involving the aforementioned seizures are being conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution of Portillo-Lopez is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Andrews, assigned to the Yuma Office in the District of Arizona.

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